



Accessing Funding in the areas of 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

CONTENTS

Contents

Open Funding Calls	1
Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) Annual Call for Proposals 2025	1
CONGRATULATIONS	2
Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment' 2025 Calls.....	2
Mission Calls 2025	3
Future Calls.....	3
Early Publication of Draft Work Programmes for 2026-2027	3
Advice for Finding Partners and Joining Consortia	4
Other Open Calls and Opportunities	5
Cascading funding opportunities	5
SOILSCAPE.....	5
OECD CRP Call for Event Sponsorship and Fellowship Awards in 2026.....	5
Events.....	6
Research and Innovation for a Competitive Green Transition	6
Horizon Europe Summit - Cities as Living Labs for Innovation.....	6
European Research & Innovation (R&I) Days 2025 - Hold the Date!.....	6
Resources and Supports	6
CARE4BIO	7
National and Local Supports	7
The Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) Network	7

Open Funding Calls

Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) Annual Call for Proposals 2025

The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) is a €2 billion partnership between the European Union and the [Bio-based Industries Consortium \(BIC\)](#) that funds projects advancing competitive circular bio-based industries in Europe. It operates under the rules of [Horizon Europe](#), issuing an annual call for proposals. The longer term research areas can be found in the CBE JU [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#).

Call identifier: **HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025** | Call budget: €165 million

Call opened: **4 April 2025** | deadline: **17 September 2025** 17:00 CET

Call topics: The text and details of the 13 topics open for application this year can be viewed here: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(CBE JU\)](#)

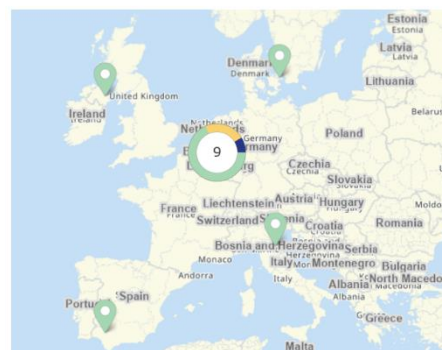
A recording of the CBE JU Info Day can be viewed here [CBE JU Info Day 2025](#)

The [CBE JU networking platform 2025](#) is available and open for registration and finding partners on-line up to the call deadline.

CONGRATULATIONS

Belfast-based SME Nuada (participating in Horizon Europe under their former trading name MOF Technologies) has been successful in securing €2.2M as part of a Belgian-led consortium in the CBE JU funded project [UNICO2RN](#). The project, commencing this month, will demonstrate cost-efficient MOF-based CO2 capture from biogenic sources, and conversion using aerobic gas fermentation technologies. The project will showcase an industrial-scale system for producing microbial proteins, PHAs, and amino acids from biogenic CO2, spanning the process from raw CO2 to final products. Details of the project can be found on the Commission's database CORDIS: [Flexible and Efficient Capture and Bioconversion of CO2 to Materials and Ingredients | UNICO2RN | Project | Fact Sheet](#).

Consortium map



Nuada has also been successful in securing €2.5M in funding from the highly competitive Horizon Europe [EIC Accelerator Programme](#).

Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment' 2025 Calls

The Cluster 6 Work Programme for 2025 [WP-9-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_horizon-2025_en.pdf](#) was published on 14th May. Individual topics can be viewed on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) along with details of the application process and requirements. The deadlines in September 2025 are set out in the following table.

Call - Type	Destinations	Deadline(s)	
1. Single Stage	1. Biodiv, 3. CircBio, 4. ZeroPollution	17 Sept	
2. Single Stage	2. Farm2Fork, 5. Climate, 6. Communities	16 Sept	
3. Single Stage	7. Governance	24 Sept	
1. Two Stage	1. Biodiv	Stage 1	Stage 2
2. Two Stage	2. Farm2Fork, 5. Climate	04 Sept	18 Feb 2026

The Cluster 6 info days took place in May; the agenda sets out the list of topics in the order they were presented by the Policy Officers: [Cluster6-info-day-2025-agenda.pdf](#)

20 May 2025

- Plenary - [Watch replay](#) (discussions by senior policy officials on the strategic directions taken in the work programme)
- Key to success - [Watch replay](#) (Note: this is well worth watching, even if you are an experienced applicant)
- Destination 1 "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" - [Watch replay](#)

- Destination 2 “Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption” - [Watch replay](#)
- Destination 3 “Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors” - [Watch replay](#)

21 May 2025

- Destination 4 “Clean environment and zero pollution” [Watch replay](#)
- Destination 5 “Land, oceans and water for climate action” - [Watch replay](#)
- Destination 6 “Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities” - [Watch replay](#)
- Destination 7 “Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal” - [Watch replay](#)
- COFUND Partnerships’ topics - [Watch replay](#)

The [Cluster 6 Matchmaking Platform](#) is available. REGISTRATION HAS RE-OPENED - use this opportunity for online matchmaking and finding partners on-line up to the call deadline.

Mission Calls 2025

The published [Missions Work Programme for 2025](#) gives details of the expected Mission and topic requirements.

Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 Mission

- Info Day [Watch replay](#)
- Topics on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- Deadline: 24 Sep 2025

A Soil Deal for Europe Mission

- Info Day [Watch replay](#)
- Topics on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- Single Stage Call: Deadline 30 Sept 2025
- Two-Stage Call: Deadline(s) 04 Sep 2025 (First Stage), 04 Mar 2026 (Second Stage)

Adaptation to Climate Change Mission

- Info Day [Watch replay](#)
- Topics on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- Deadline: 24 Sep 2025

Finding Partners: It is not too late to find partners and join a consortium addressing the mission calls.

Companies, Local Authorities and those with specialist local knowledge of locations for ‘on-the-ground’ action are especially needed in collaborative proposals.

The [Missions Brokerage and Matchmaking Platform 2025](#) is available and open for registration and finding partners on-line up to the call deadline.



Future Calls - Early Publication of Draft Work Programmes 2026-27



On 13th June the EC unexpectedly published the draft work programmes of several clusters for 2026/27, including Cluster 6 and the Missions.

Please use these for forward planning and to start discussions and preparations for these future calls. Do be aware that topics can change between draft and final publication.

- [Cluster 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#) (v2 27/05/25)
- [Missions](#) including the Soil and Oceans Mission calls (v2 20/05/25)

Other drafts available to download include:

- [Cluster 1 Health](#) (v2 of 13/05/25)
- [Cluster 4 Digital, Industry and Space](#) (v2 28/05/25)
- [Cluster 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility](#) (v2 of 27/05/2025)
- [New European Bauhaus Facility \(NEB\)](#) (v2 of 20/05/2025)

Advice for Finding Partners and Joining Consortia

Relationship-building for collaboration is important. Don't rush it. If you are successful in winning funding, the grant agreement for the consortium is essentially a "contract to deliver results" with the EC. You are likely to be working with these people for up to 5 years. Make sure you understand each other and build trust.

For this reason (and others) the most experienced are slow to take on a 'new' partner. Coordinators are looking for background understanding of the call topic area, policies and Commission needs and a track record (of projects, publications, innovations etc.) in the right field. Be aware that partner selection is driven by:

- Quality - they want 'the best'
- Prior research achievements and scientific (or commercial) track record (e.g. the quality and relevance of publications and innovations)
- Balance of roles, skills and levels of experience
- Other considerations may include geography (wanting to spread the funding / ensure wider geographical impact)

[Louise Mothersole](#) (Horizon Europe UK National Contact Point for Mobility) has published an excellent post on LinkedIn. Her tips are also relevant to Cluster 6 (substitute your own search terms).



[Finding the right \(i.e. winning\) consortium partners for Horizon Europe projects.](#)

She advises "Treat joining a consortium as a project in its own right." This is good advice, and she suggests trying the following routes (listed by decreasing likelihood of success):

1. Networking is by far the most useful way to find consortium partners. You will often hear people say "I was lucky, I got invited into a consortium by somebody I knew already". Use your professional network – you may know somebody already that is in a position to invite you to join a consortium.
2. Find potential partners that have a strong track record of previously successful proposals and therefore know how to write a winning proposal, you can search the [EU's CORDIS website](#) where every past project has a webpage that contains a brief description of the project and lists the coordinator and project participants
3. Use partner search websites and the EU funding and tenders portal's [Partner Search tab](#)

Note: there is also a Partner Search section at the bottom of each open topic but beware there are organisations that 'spam' every topic, often with an offer of little relevance to the subject area and with little success to show for their effort.

Remember - good proposals take time to develop. Tips:

- Do prepare in advance a summary of what you can offer
- Be prepared to travel to EU-level events
- Be responsive
- Be prepared to be patient

Other Open Calls and Opportunities

Cascading funding opportunities

Cascading Funding arises from projects which were asked to set aside funding under Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP), which is a European Commission mechanism to distribute funding to wider beneficiaries who were not ready for or not successful in applying to the original funding call. It also helps uptake of methods and knowledge developed by projects across a wider geographical area than the original grant. Open and forthcoming opportunities can be viewed at the following link on the [Cascading funding on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

SOILSCAPE

The SOILSCAPE Open Call aims to incentivize the integration of arts, arts-based, and creative approaches to increase soil literacy, raise awareness and engagement with soil and their preservation. The Financial Support to Third Party (FSTP) scheme will support individual applicants and small consortia (up to three (3) partners) in the following two (2) categories:

1. SOILSCAPE FSTP, sub-projects of duration 6, 12, or 18 months.
2. Soil Orchestra FSTP, sub-projects will last for 18 months.

SOILSCAPE (Spreading Open and Inclusive Literacy and Soil Culture through Artistic Practices and Education) was funded under topic “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-07 - Back to earth: bringing communities and citizens closer to soil” and plans to disburse €2.01M through cascading funding.

OECD CRP Call for Event Sponsorship and Fellowship Awards in 2026

The OECD Cooperative Research Programme (CRP) on Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems has opened its [Call for applications](#) for grants to be funded in 2026. The call is for applications for international event sponsorship (conferences, symposia) and short-term research fellowship grants to be funded in 2026. The closing date for submission of applications is **Wednesday 10 September 2025** (midnight, Paris time, CET).

The UK is amongst the currently 30 OECD countries participating in the CRP, which supports research collaboration related to the sustainable use of natural resources in agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries. Applications should fit in to one of the following three research themes, full details of which can be found in the CRP's [research theme document](#):

1. Managing natural capital
2. Strengthening resilience in the face of multiple risks in a connected world
3. Transformational technologies and innovation

For this call, the CRP would particularly welcome applications in any of the following areas:

- Sustainable and resilient productivity growth and food security and nutrition
- Climate change mitigation, reducing emissions from agriculture and food systems, carbon sequestration in agriculture, forestry and land use
- Halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation
- Reducing the negative environmental impacts of livestock production and practices harmful to animal health and welfare, investigating the positive contribution livestock can make to soil quality and management, biodiversity and livelihoods
- Biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem services
- Improving soil health and water and air quality, including through agroecological and other innovative, context specific approaches
- Innovations in the transfer and development of agricultural knowledge, including indigenous and traditional knowledge

- Fisheries and aquaculture productivity, sustainability and resilience

The CRP normally supports up to 10 events (conferences, symposia) and around 20 fellowships each year; details are available of [events](#) and [fellowships](#) supported since 2020. The Event Sponsorship scheme aims to inform policy makers, industry and academia of current and future research, scientific developments and opportunities on issues relevant to the CRP and to OECD's policy priorities - CRP funding supports the travel costs of invited speakers and contributes to the publication of event proceedings. Fellowships aim to strengthen the international exchange of ideas and increase international mobility and cooperation - the CRP provides support through bursaries covering travel and subsistence costs to research scientists who should have 4 years postdoctoral training and a long-term renewable position. Fellowships may be from 6 to 26 weeks.

Full details of the eligibility requirements, application process and selection criteria for both Event and Fellowship support can be found on the [CRP's website](#). To increase the chances of success, applicants should:

- **Explicitly address all of the selection criteria** in their application; and
- **Liaise directly with the relevant Theme coordinator** on the CRP Scientific Advisory Body before submitting an application, to ensure eligibility and fit to CRP aims and objectives. Details of Theme coordinators can be found in the CRP [research theme document](#).

Further information is also available from christopher.barker@defra.gov.uk or directly from the CRP Secretariat at TAD.PROG@oecd.org

Events

Research and Innovation for a Competitive Green Transition

This event will bring together decision-makers, stakeholders, and thought leaders from across Europe and beyond to discuss how R&I is enabling the green transition and shaping a competitive, sustainable future for Europe. It takes place on **23rd and 24th June** and will be live streamed on [The research and innovation community platform](#) with recordings available [View the programme here](#).

Horizon Europe Summit - Cities as Living Labs for Innovation

This year's [Horizon Europe Summit](#) takes place on **9th July 2025** in Zagreb, Croatia and focuses on cities as pilot locations for innovative projects. It will allow participants to explore the latest Horizon Europe opportunities for urban innovation and discuss cutting-edge project ideas, focusing on cities like Zagreb and culminating in a tailor-made matchmaking event for the future Horizon Europe calls.

European Research & Innovation (R&I) Days 2025 - Hold the Date!

The [European Research & Innovation Days 2025](#) will take place on **16–17 September 2025** at [The Square](#) in Brussels. This brings together policymakers, researchers, business leaders and the wider innovation community to discuss how research and innovation drives Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and industrial leadership, underpinning the EU's top priorities. This year the theme is **"Together, towards a Research and Innovation Union"**.

Resources and Supports

A detailed section on **"European Commission Resources, Supports and 'How to'"** can be found in the previous [NICP Cluster 6 Newsletter Winter 2025](#) (archived on the HorizonEuropeNI website).

CARE4BIO is the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for Cluster 6. CARE4BIO has recently updated four annotated templates specifically for Cluster 6. These are intended for both advisory purposes for NCPs and applicants preparing a proposal. They contain comments, tips & tricks, guiding questions and do's and don'ts. The annotated templates have been added to the [CARE4BIO repository](#).



[How approach Cluster 6 funding opportunities. On-Site: Warsaw | Cluster 6 | Horizon Europe NCP Portal](#). Documents and training materials from a recent on-site training event are now available on the CARE4BIO Website:

[Put yourself in the shoes of an evaluator of your Multi-Actor Approach project proposal | Cluster 6 | Horizon Europe NCP Portal](#). A practical webinar to improve Horizon Europe proposals with insights from experienced evaluators. When: Jun 25, 2025, 10:00am - 11:30am CEST

National and Local Supports

Horizon Europe Pump Priming collaboration opportunities 2025

UK Small and Medium Enterprises that intend to pursue a collaborative Horizon Europe project can apply for up to £5,000 from [Innovate UK Business Growth](#) to support their preparations. This could be used to travel to events, to meet or attend workshops with consortium partners and membership fees for relevant European associations. Applications are open from **29 May 2025** and close **15 July 2025**.

InterTrade Ireland Travel Vouchers

A **Cross-Border Collaboration Voucher** offers up to £500 to early-stage partnerships travelling across the border to scope out potential project ideas. The **EU Travel Voucher** can be redeemed against the cost of travel or accommodation for up to £350. The purpose of this scheme is to facilitate existing North-South partnerships to travel to consortium meetings, information days and other events to meet with the European Commission and potential partners from other EU member states. [Travel vouchers](#) are open to the research community and to innovative SMEs.

The Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) Network

The NICP was set up in 2014 to support local applicants applying for European Horizon funding. Details are available on the [network's website](#) which has been updated for Horizon Europe. Services offered by the NICPs include:

- **Guidance** on choosing relevant Horizon topics and types of action
- **Advice** on administrative procedures and contractual issues
- **Training**, assistance and advice on proposal writing, to improve the quality of proposals
- **Signpost** to documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.) and other supports available
- **Assistance** in partner searches



Elaine Groom [NI Contact Point for Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'](#)

c/o Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Newforge Lane, Belfast
Direct Dial: +44 (0)2890 255078 / Mobile: +44 (0)7769 188940
Email: elaine.groom@afbini.gov.uk
LinkedIn: [elainegroom](#) | Twitter / X: @ElaineGroom